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Benjamin Griffith Brawley Collection
Collection 8-1

Prepared & Revised by:
Karen L. Jefferson
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

The Benjamin Griffith Brawley Collection totals « linear foot, and is comprised primarily of materials concerning persons and subjects of interest to Benjamin Brawley. The subjects center around writers and include autographed writings, newsclippings, programs and notes. These subject files include, Paul L. Dunbar, Matilda Dunbar, Roland Hayes, James W. Johnson, John Merrick, and Newman I. White.

The collection contains no biographical or career information about Benjamin Brawley. However, there is a significant portion of the collection about Benjamin Brawley's father, Rev. Edward McKnight Brawley. Rev. Brawley, teacher, minister, and college president, is recognized for his efforts in organizing the Colored Baptist Churches and Sunday Schools in South Carolina. This series include a holograph biography of Rev. Brawley.

The collection does include some of Benjamin Brawley's correspondence from 1917-1936. The correspondents include such notables as Frances Grimke, Arthur Huff Fauset, Alain Locke, Newman I. White, and Rayford W. Logan, Also included in the collection are notes written by Brawley as well as some poetry.

Biographical Sketch

Benjamin Griffith Brawley

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1882, April 22 | Born to Edward M. and Margaret Saphronia (Dickerson) Brawley, in Columbia, S.C. |
| 1898-1901 | Attended Atlanta Baptist College (Morehouse College), Atlanta, GA. Received a B.S. degree. |
| 1901 | Taught in Georgetown, Florida |
| 1902 | Served as Instructor of English, Morehouse College. |
| 1906-1910 | Served as Professor of English, Morehouse College. |
| 1906 | Received an A.B. degree, University of Chicago, IL. |
| 1908 | Received an A.M. degree, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. |
| 1910-1912 | Served as Professor of English, Howard University. |
| 1912 | Served as Dean of Morehouse College. Married Hilda Damaris Prowd, of Kingston, Jamaica. |
| 1920 | Journeyed to Liberia to do a study of the republic. |
| 1921, June 2 | Ordained as a Baptist minister in Boston, MA. |
| 1923-1931 | Served as Professor of English at Shaw University, Raleigh, NC. |
| 1931 | Accepted a Professorship at Howard University. |
| 1939 Feb. 1 | Died in Washington, D.C. |

Biographical Sketch

Edward McKnight Brawley

1851, Mar. 18 Born to James M. and Ann L. Brawley (both parents free) in Columbia, S.C.

1870 Entered Howard University, as the first theology student.

1871-1875 Attended Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, (being the first black student) received a B.A. degree.

1871 Licensed to preach in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania,

1875 Ordained a Baptist minister. Commissioned by the American Baptist Publication Society to South Carolina as a missionary; organized the State Sunday School Convention.

1877 Married Mary Dorrick, of Lynchburg, VA. (died 1878)

1878 Received a M.A. degree, Bucknell University

1879 Married Margaret S. Dickerson, of Columbia, S.C.

1883 Elected President of Alabama Baptist Normal and Theological School (Selma University).

1885 Received an honorary Doctor of Divinity, State University of Louisville, Kentucky.

1887 Began publication of the Baptist Tribune, a weekly newspaper.

1890 Accepted the call to pastorate the First Baptist Church of Petersburg, Virginia the oldest colored Baptist Church in the U.S.

1891 Elected President of the National Baptist Convention

1923 Died in Raleigh, N.C.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 8-1 **Edward McKnight Brawley**
Biographical material about Benjamin Brawley's father. Includes programs, and periodicals about Rev. Brawley's church in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Series B**
Box 8-1 **Correspondence**
Correspondence of Benjamin G. Brawley spanning the period 1917-1936. Includes such notables as Francis J. Grimke, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke and Carter G. Woodson.
- Series C**
Box 8-1 **Notes By Benjamin G. Brawley**
Typewritten and holograph notes on subjects of interest to Benjamin Brawley. Includes notes on English literature, Jessie Fauset, "Notable Negroes" and some poetry.
- Series D**
Box 8-1 **Subject Files**
Primarily printed biographical materials about people of interest to Benjamin Brawley materials include, news articles, reprints, programs, and broadsides about such notables as Thomas Paine, C. V. Roman, Matilda Dunbar, and John Merrick.

Container List

Series A Edward McKnight Brawley

Box Folder

- 8-1 1 Biographical (holograph)
 2 Newscippings
 3 Photo (fund raising brochure)
 4 History of the First Baptist Church of Lewisburg, PA.

1844-1894 5 The Sunday School Teacher April 1923
 6 Centennial Pithecollogical Magazine, Univ. of Lewisburg,

April 1875

Series B Correspondence

- 7 A - B
8 C - I
9 Couch, W. T. (Univ. of N.C. Press)
10 Dodd, Frank C. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)
11 Fauset, Arthur Huff
12 Fisher; Miles Mark
13 Greene, Lorenzo J.
14 Grimke, Francis J.
15 J - P
16 Johnson, Charles S.
17 Johnson, James Weldon
18 Keck-Wiggins, Lida
19 Locke, Alain
20 Logan, Rayford W.
21 Peck, Naomi Grant
22 Q - Z
23 White, Newman I.
24 Woodson, Carter G.

Series C Notes By Benjamin G. Brawley

- 25 Paul Laurence Dunbar
26 English Literature
27 Jessie Fauset
28 Richard B. Harrison
29 William A. Hunton

Container List

Series C	Notes By Benjamin G. Brawley continued
Box	Folder
8-1	30 The Minister As A Professional Man
	31 Negro Painters and Sculptors
	32 The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, and other poems
	33 Thirty Notable Negroes
	34 Notes
Series D	Subject Files
biographical	35 Cotter, Joseph S., and Maria Cox - writings and information
	36 Dillard, James H. writings by Dillard
	37 Dunbar, Matilda T. biographical sketches
	38 Dunbar, Paul Laurence - newsclippings
	39 Paul Laurence Dunbar, Jr. High School, Dayton, Ohio
Dedication	Program - 1933
	40 Hayes, Roland, and Lawrence, M. W. - programs, article
	41 Johnson, James Weldon - reviews of Johnson's writings
	42 Merrick, John - biographical sketch
	43 Murphy, Meta Hunt - poem (autographed)
	44 Thomas Paine, the Great Liberator of Man
	45 Roman, C. V. - writing by Roman (autographed)
	46 Rose, James E. - program, report
	47 White, Charles Fred - press notices
	48 White, Newman I. - writings by White (autographed)
	49 English Literature - newsclippings on various writers